

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 085262
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 IO-13 SSO-00 /025 R

DRAFTED BY AF:WBEDMONDSON:LPR
APPROVED BY AF:TWSEELYE
S/PRS:HCARTER
IO:WMAYNES
S/ PTARNOFF

-----152037Z 096170 /41

O 152007Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 085262

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SF

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S COMMENT ON LEGITIMACY OF SOUTH
AFRICAN GOVERNMENT

REF: CAPE TOWN 565

1. DEPARTMENT IS FORWARDING BY SEPTTEL TEXT OF ASSOCIATED
PRESS STORY BY WILLIAM OATIS REPORTING, ON THE BASIS OF AN
INTERVIEW, THAT AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG "CONSIDERS SOUTH
AFRICA'S WHITE GOVERNMENT ILLEGITIMATE" AND "FAVORS A
TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE BLACK MAJORITY THERE."

2. SOUTH AFRICAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES JEREMY SHEARAR CALLED
ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE AT 0900 APRIL 15 ON
INSTRUCTIONS TO EXPRESS SAG SHOCK AT THE REPORTED STATE-
MENT. HE SAID SAG TOLD PRESS IN SA THAT FOREIGN MINISTER
BOTHAS HAD CALLED YOU IN TO ASK IF AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAD
ACTUALLY MADE THE STATEMENT AND THAT SAG WAS AWAITING A
REPLY. SHEARAR WENT ON TO SAY SUCH STATEMENT WAS NOT
HELPFUL TO IMPROVEMENT, OR EVEN THE MAINTENANCE, OF US-SAG
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RELATIONS. IF AMBASSADOR YOUNG WAS GOING TO MAKE SUCH
STATEMENTS IN THE MIDST OF DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS, IT WAS
DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW SAG COULD CONTINUE NEGOTIATING ON
NAMIBIA OR BEING HELPFUL ON RHODESIA. SHEARAR STATED THAT
IN VIEW OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S CABINET STATUS, IT MUST BE
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REPLY TO TWO QUESTIONS: (A) DID AMBASSADOR YOUNG REALLY MAKE THE STATEMENT AS REPORTED? (B) IF SO, DOES USG AGREE WITH AND SUPPORT IT? AMBASSADOR SEELYE PROMISED TO CHECK ON THE MATTER AND GET BACK TO SHEARAR.

3. WHEN ASKED FOR COMMENT AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING TODAY, SPOKESMAN READ FOLLOWING POLICY STATEMENT AUTHORIZED BY THE SECRETARY: "ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT AGREE WITH A NUMBER OF THE POLICIES AND PRACTICES OF SOUTH AFRICA, IT IS INCORRECT TO SAY THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA IS ILLEGITIMATE." IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, HE SAID SAG REPRESENTATIONS ON THE MATTER WOULD BE ANSWERED TO THE SAME EFFECT. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE SECRETARY AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER BY TELEPHONE THIS MORNING, ADDING THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG UNDERSTANDS THE POLICY STATEMENT AND KNEW IN ADVANCE THAT IT WAS BEING MADE.

4. WHEN ASKED FURTHER QUESTION WHETHER USG SUPPORTS MAJORITY RULE IN SA AS A LONG-RANGE OBJECTIVE, PRESS SPOKESMAN ADDED FOLLOWING COMMENT: "IT IS OUR POLICY TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND TO ENCOURAGE IT TO MOVE AWAY FROM ITS POLICIES OF INSTITUTIONALIZED RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND TOWARD THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND FULL POLITICAL PARTICIPATION FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS."

5. JUST PRIOR TO THE NOON BRIEFING, AS REPORTED IN SEELYE-NELSON TELECON, AMBASSADOR SEELYE TELEPHONED SA
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CHARGE SHEARAR TO CONFIRM THAT THE PRESS REPORT OF THE INTERVIEW WAS CORRECT AND THEN READ TO HIM THE STATEMENT QUOTED IN PARA 3 ABOVE. SHEARAR SAID HE WOULD TELEPHONE THE STATEMENT TO BOTHA IMMEDIATELY.

6. YOU MAY REPEAT THIS TO SAG AND TO LOCAL PRESS AS NECESSARY BUT SHOULD NOT GO BEYOND STATEMENTS REPORTED IN PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 4 ABOVE.
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R 160217Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 085262

INFORM CONSULS

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SECSTATE WASHDC DATED APRIL 15, 1977
SENT CAPE TOWN IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 085262

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SF

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BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND FULL POLITICAL PARTICIPATION FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS."

5. JUST PRIOR TO THE NOON BRIEFING, AS REPORTED IN SEELYE-NELSON TELECON, AMBASSADOR SEELYE TELEPHONED SA CHARGE SHEARAR TO CONFIRM THAT THE PRESS REPORT OF THE INTERVIEW WAS CORRECT AND THEN READ TO HIM THE STATEMENT QUOTED IN PARA 3 ABOVE. SHEARAR SAID HE WOULD TELEPHONE THE STATEMENT TO BOTHA IMMEDIATELY.

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VANCE UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /014 R

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APPROVED BY:IO:PMBUNGE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 085262

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 085262 SENT ACTION CAPE TOWN
APRIL 15 FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 085262

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WBEDMONDSON:LPR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770132-0102
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From: STATE
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 CAPE TOWN 565
Retention: 0
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2790941
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S COMMENT ON LEGITIMACY OF SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, SF, US, (YOUNG, ANDREW)
To: CAPE TOWN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e7d998a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009